



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

20 JUN 84  
6 pages  
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IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 13100.1D  
OP-508C  
19 SEP 1985

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 13100.1D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: DESIGNATING AND NAMING AEROSPACE VEHICLES

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 13100.2

Encl: (1) DoD Directive 4120.15 of 2 May 1985

1. Purpose. This instruction establishes policy and administrative procedures within the Department of the Navy for the implementation of enclosure (1).

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 13100.1C

3. Background. Enclosure (1) provides guidance for designating and naming military aerospace vehicles. Each military aerospace vehicle shall be assigned a unique mission-design series (MDS) designator. Only approved MDS designators and popular names shall be used in referencing these aerospace vehicles in official documents and public statements. To ensure consistency and uniformity of compliance with this policy, the Department of the Air Force has been assigned as the Department of Defense (DoD) Executive Agent for this function. (R)

4. Policy. It shall be the policy of the Department of the Navy (DON) that military aerospace vehicles shall be designated and named in accordance with enclosure (1). In addition, the following procedures are established:

a. Aircraft

(1) A designation shall be assigned as early in the development cycle as is necessary to identify any given aircraft development project.

(2) A popular name may be assigned when production is authorized or directed.


b. Rockets and Guided Missiles

(1) A designation shall be assigned as soon as practicable.

(2) A popular name may be assigned after publication of the Specific Operational Requirement, and not later than publication of the Technical Development Plan. Popular names for rockets and guided missiles are not mandatory.

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5. Action. Commander, Naval Air Systems Command (COMNAVAIRSYSCOM) shall be the agency of the DON responsible for the implementation of enclosure (1). Designations shall be made by COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, after coordination (if applicable) with Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command in accordance with the policy set forth in paragraph 4. In the selection of a popular name for an aerospace vehicle, the cognizant systems command shall propose a minimum of three names, in order of preference, to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) via the Chief of Naval Operations. To avoid duplication, each name proposed must be checked against the master list of popular names maintained by the Department of the Air Force single point of contact and a trademark search conducted at the Trademark Division of the United States Patent Office, Department of Commerce. In accordance with reference (a) the final selection of a popular name will be made by the Secretary of the Navy. The final selection will then be coordinated with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs). When notified of the final choice, COMNAVAIRSYSCOM will prepare a naming notice for SECNAV and promulgate the name in accordance with established procedures.

  
EDWARD H. MARTIN  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations  
(Air Warfare)

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# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

OPNAVINST 13100.1D  
19 SEP 1985

May 2, 1985  
NUMBER 4120.15

ASD(MI&L)

SUBJECT: Designating and Naming Military Aerospace Vehicles

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 4120.15, "Designating and Naming Military Aircraft, Rockets, and Guided Missiles," November 24, 1971 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) DoD Directive 5000.11, "Data Elements and Data Codes Standardization Program," December 7, 1964
  - (c) DoD 5000.12-M, "DoD Manual for Standard Data Elements," October 1984, authorized by DoD Instruction 5000.12, April 27, 1965

## A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) and updates policies and responsibilities to promote clarity and consistency throughout the Department of Defense in referencing military aerospace vehicles, and to assign an executive agent to publish a joint regulation governing the designation and naming of these vehicles and a single DoD-wide source document containing approved designators and popular names.

## B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and its field activities, the Military Departments (including their National Guard and Reserve components), the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components").

## C. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

1. Each military aerospace vehicle shall be assigned a unique mission-design series (MDS) designator. Only approved MDS designators and popular names shall be used in referencing these aerospace vehicles in official documents and public statements.
2. To ensure consistency and uniformity of compliance with this policy, the Department of the Air Force is hereby assigned as the DoD executive agent for this function.

Enclosure (1)

public announcement of the selected popular name for each aerospace vehicle.

b. Forward suggested changes to the joint regulation and the DoD-wide source document to the Department of the Air Force to facilitate preparation, coordination, and revision, as appropriate.

3. All DoD Components shall:

a. Disseminate the DoD-wide source document published by the Department of the Air Force as a reference for the names and MDS designators of military aerospace vehicles.

b. Coordinate with the Department of the Air Force, before referencing in official documents and public statements, aerospace vehicles in the planning or predevelopment stage that do not have approved MDS designators or names.

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E. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. The Department of the Air Force shall update the required joint regulation as required and publish the DoD-wide source document annually. Future proposed changes and revisions to these documents should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Air Force.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Taft, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "W".

William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense